

Filed with DCID 1/3

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26 September 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Planning and Review Staff
SUBJECT: Revision of Priority National Intelligence Objectives
REFERENCE: DCID No. 1/3, Subject: Priority National Intelligence Objectives dated 24 May 1960

1. Item I. f. in referenced DCID No. 1/3 is of continuing First Category Priority in the opinion of the Geographic Research Area and should by all means remain in this position. This item reads as follows:

"The identification and precise geodetic location of critical air and missile targets in the Sino-Soviet Bloc."

2. It is recommended that item III, e. of DCID No. 1/3 be shifted from Third Category to Second Category of Priority. This item reads as follows:

"The political and economic strengths and weaknesses and the general military capabilities of the Viet Minh regime; the nature of its relationships with the USSR and with Communist China; its political and military objectives and intentions; and its capabilities and intentions for clandestine and subversive activity in South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia."

The increased tempo of activity of Viet Minh in South Vietnam threatens to extend the area of Communist influence and control in Asia. Security in the countryside has deteriorated seriously in the last six months.

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In addition, the Communists show indications of extending their activities into the cities as well. Certainly such a development would have serious consequences for the United States, thus justifying a Second Category for this priority objective.

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Chief, Geographic Research

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